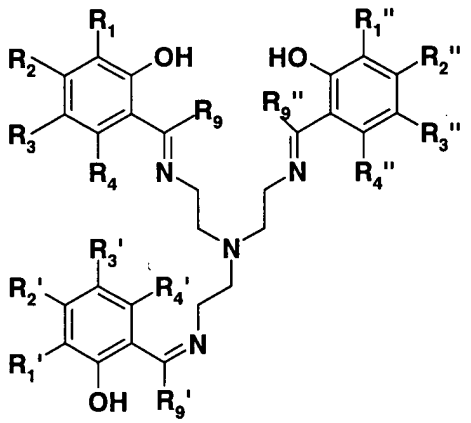
IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claim 23.

Kindly amend the claims to read as follows.

Claims 1-21 (cancelled).

22. (currently amended): A process for oxidation, which comprises oxidizing an oxidizable substrate with a mixture of a peroxygen compound and, as oxidation catalyst, a Mn(III) or Fe(III) metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula



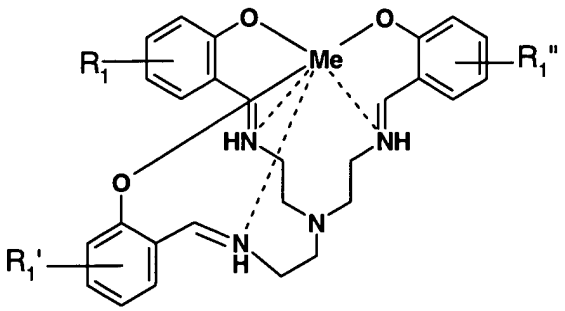
(1)

where

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1", R_2", R_3" and R_4" are each independently hydrogen, cyano, halogen, SO_3M, where M is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, an alkaline earth metal cation, ammonium or an organic ammonium cation, SO_2NH_2, SO_2NHR_5, $SO_2N(R_5)_2$, OR_5 or $COOR_5$, where R_5 is hydrogen or linear or branched C_1-C_4alkyl, nitro, linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl, linear or branched fluorinated or perfluorinated C_1-C_8alkyl, NHR_6, NR_6R_7, $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$ or linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl-R_8, where R_8 is OR_5, $COOR_5$, NH_2, NHR_6, NR_6R_7 or $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$, where R_6, R_7 and R_{10} are identical or different and each is linear or branched C_1-C_{12}alkyl or where R_6 and R_7 combine with the joining nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further heteroatoms, and where R_9, R_9' and R_9" are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl or aryl.

23 (cancelled).

24. (previously presented): A process according to claim 23, in which the metal complex is a 1:1 metal(III) complex of the formula



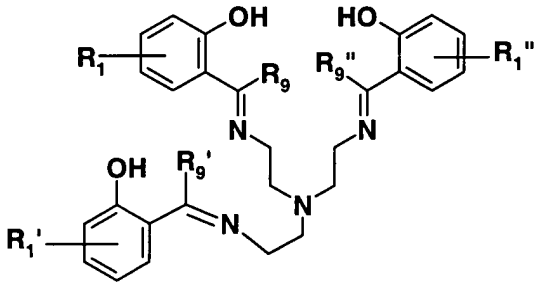
(2)

where Me is Mn or Fe, R_1, R_1' and R_1" are each independently hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, NHR_6, NR_6R_7 or $-N^{\oplus}R_5R_6R_7$, where R_5, R_6 and R_7 are each independently C_1-C_4alkyl.

25. (previously presented): A process according to claim 24, wherein the metal complex is an Mn(III) complex.

26. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, wherein a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) is used in an aqueous solution together with a peroxygen compound for bleaching spots or stains on textile material.

27. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, wherein the tripodal ligand conforms to the formula

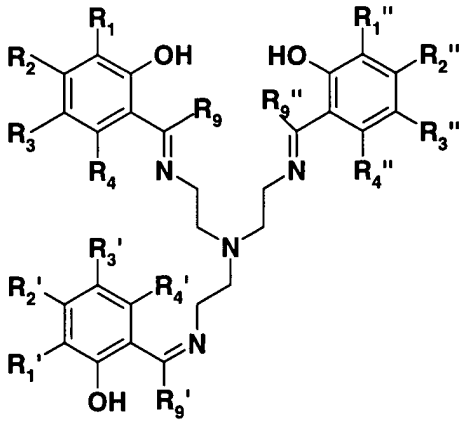


(3)

where

R_1, R_1' and R_1" are each independently hydrogen, C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, hydroxyl, nitro, NHR_6, NR_6R_7 or $N^{\oplus}R_5R_6R_7$, where R_5, R_6 and R_7 are each independently C_1-C_4alkyl and R_9, R_9' and R_9" are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl or aryl.

28. (currently amended): A manganese(III) or iron(III) complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula

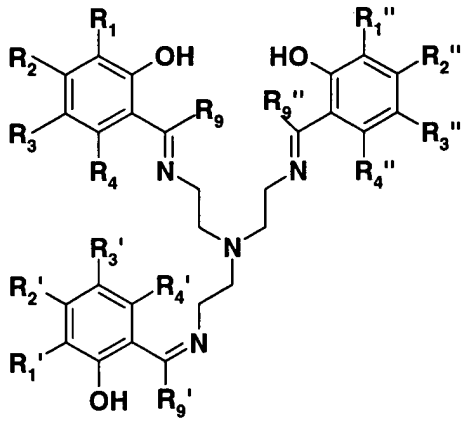


(1)

where

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1", R_2", R_3" and R_4" are each independently hydrogen, cyano, ~~halogen~~ Cl, F, SO_3M, where M is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, an alkaline earth metal cation, ammonium or an organic ammonium cation, SO_2NH_2, SO_2NHR_5, $SO_2N(R_5)_2$, OR_5 or $COOR_5$, where R_5 is hydrogen or linear or branched C_1-C_4alkyl, nitro, linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl, linear or branched fluorinated or perfluorinated C_1-C_8alkyl, NHR_6, NR_6R_7, $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$ or linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl-R_8, where R_8 is OR_5, $COOR_5$, NH_2, NHR_6, NR_6R_7 or $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$, where R_6, R_7 and R_{10} are identical or different and each is linear or branched C_1-C_{12}alkyl or where R_6 and R_7 combine with the joining nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further heteroatoms, and where R_9, R_9' and R_9" are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl or aryl, subject to the condition that in the manganese(III) complex at least one of the substituents R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1", R_2", R_3", R_4", R_9, R_9' and R_9" has a meaning other than hydrogen and that at least one of the substituents R_3, R_3' and R_3" has a meaning other than chlorine when the substituents R_1, R_2, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_4', R1", R2", R4", R9, R9' and R9" are all hydrogen.

29. (currently amended): A ligand of the formula



(1)

where

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1", R_2", R_3" and R_4" are each independently hydrogen, cyano, ~~halogen~~ Cl, F, SO_3M, where M is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation, an alkaline earth metal cation, ammonium or an organic ammonium cation, SO_2NH_2, SO_2NHR_5, $SO_2N(R_5)_2$, OR_5 or $COOR_5$, where R_5 is hydrogen or linear or branched C_1-C_4alkyl, nitro, linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl, linear or branched fluorinated or perfluorinated C_1-C_8alkyl, NHR_6, NR_6R_7, $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$ or linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl-R_8, where R_8 is OR_5, $COOR_5$, NH_2, NHR_6, NR_6R_7 or $N^{\oplus}R_6R_7R_{10}$, where R_6, R_7 and R_{10} are identical or different and each is linear or branched C_1-C_{12}alkyl or where R_6 and R_7 combine with the joining nitrogen atom to form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered ring, which may contain further heteroatoms, and where R_9, R_9' and R_9" are each independently hydrogen, linear or branched C_1-C_8alkyl or aryl, subject to the condition that in the manganese(III) complex at least one of the substituents R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_3', R_4', R_1", R_2", R_3", R_4", R_9, R_9' and R_9" has a meaning other than hydrogen and that at least one of the substituents R_3, R_3' and R_3" has a meaning other than chlorine when the substituents R_1, R_2, R_4, R_1', R_2', R_4', R_1", R_2", R_4", R_9, R_9' and R_9" are all hydrogen.

30. (currently amended): A washing or cleaning process, which comprises adding to a liquor which contains a peroxidic detergent, 0.1 to 200 µmol per litre of wash liquor of one or more metal complexes or an uncomplexed ligand of the formula (1) ~~,~~ according to claim 29.

31. (previously presented): A process for preventing the redeposition of migrating dyes in a wash liquor, which comprises adding to the wash liquor, which contains a peroxidic detergent, 0.5 to 150 mg per litre of wash liquor of one or more metal complexes containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22.

32. (previously presented): A laundry detergent comprising

I) 5 - 90% of A) an anionic surfactant and/or B) a nonionic surfactant,

II) 5 - 70% of C) a builder,

III) 0.1 - 30% of D) a peroxide, and

IV) 0.005 - 2% of E) a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22, the percentages all being percent by weight based on the total weight of the laundry detergent.

33. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, in which a hard surface is cleaned.

34. (previously presented): A hard surface cleaner, which comprises a peroxygen compound and a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22 as catalyst for the peroxygen compound.

35. (previously presented): A hard surface cleaner according to claim 34, which is an automatic dishwasher cleaning composition.

36. (previously presented): A process for cleaning crockery, which comprises using a hard surface cleaner according to claim 35.

37. (previously presented): A process according to claim 33, wherein the hard surfaces which are cleaned are tiles and inter-tile joints.

38. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, which is a process for killing bacteria or for protecting a surface against bacterial colonization.

39. (previously presented): An aqueous suspension comprising

a) 1 - 60% by weight of a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22,

b) 0.5 to 15% by weight of a dispersant,

c) 0 - 10% by weight of a further ingredient, and

d) 15 - 98.5% by weight of water.

40. (previously presented): A solid preparation comprising

a) 1 - 99% by weight of a metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined in claim 22,

b) 1 to 99% by weight of a carrier material,

c) 0 - 20% by weight of a dispersant,

d) 0 - 10% by weight of a further ingredient, and

e) 0 - 5% by weight of water.

41. (previously presented): An aqueous suspension according to claim 39, wherein the metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined therein has an average particle size of less than 20 µm.

42. (previously presented): A solid preparation according to claim 40, wherein the metal complex containing a tripodal ligand of the formula (1) as defined therein has an average particle size of less than 20 µm.

43. (previously presented): A process according to claim 22, which is a process for removing printing inks from printed waste paper (de-inking).